

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 has been amended to refer only to a glass plate, and the dependent claims have been modified so that the preambles are more appropriate.

New claims 29-36 have been added and are directed to a glass ceramic plate.

Claims 15, 16 and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over the combination of Colvin in view of Lorenz. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The claims are directed to glass or glass ceramic plates, useful for, e.g., kitchen appliances. The plates have an upper side and a lower side, and a safe edge formed by a cross-sectional profiled portion thicker than the thickness of the plate which merges integrally and seamlessly with the plate and is upset or shaped on the plate.

The Examiner acknowledges that Colvin does not show a plate made of glass or glass ceramic, but cites Lorenz for showing a plate made of glass ceramic or metal.

However, Colvin clearly teaches at Col. 1, lines 5-10, that "Although such [heater] panels are usually of ceramic material, such material is unable to withstand the prolonged heating periods to which it is subjected in commercial use and tends to become brittle and consequently liable to crack on cooling; and also becomes more liable to fracture by impact if a heavy vessel is put carelessly on it." Colvin goes on to teach that such panels should be made of, e.g., cast iron or cast aluminum and coated on at least an upper layer with vitreous enamel. Thus Colvin clearly teaches away from the use of ceramic materials.

It is respectfully submitted that Lorenz teaches away from providing the claimed profile because Lorenz's plate must fit in the rim of carrier shell 17.

Additionally, there is no teaching in either reference of how to make a glass or glass ceramic with the claimed construction.

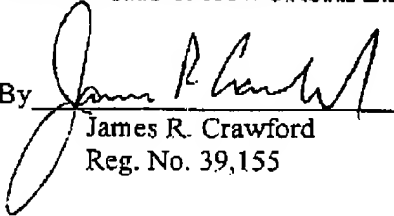
There is also not believed to be any disclosure to one skilled in the art to prepare a glass or glass ceramic plate consisting of the glass or glass ceramic, since Colvin coats the panels with vitreous enamel.

In view of the foregoing allowance is respectfully requested.

If any fees are due for entry of this amendment, authorization is given to charge deposit account no. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures

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SCHT-215 (10105731)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)	:	Tapien
Serial No.	:	094935,702
Filed	:	August 21, 2001
For	:	GLASS OR GLASS CERAMIC PLATE WITH A SAFE EDGE AND METHOD FOR THE MANUFACTURE THEREOF
Art Unit	:	3742
Examiner	:	S.Y. Paik

September 24, 2003

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Eileen Stoffel 9/24/03

Eileen Stoffel

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AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 1.11

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed June 24, 2003, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

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